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Agenda item 98 (d)

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Hans-Peter Glanzer (Austria), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.20

International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/236 of 22 December 1989, 48/188 of 21 December 1993, 49/22 A of 2 December 1994, 49/22 B of 20 December 1994, 50/117 A and B of 20 December 1995 and 51/185 of 16 December 1996 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/45 of 26 July 1996,

Taking into account that the El Niño Southern Oscillation Phenomenon, commonly known as "El Niño", has had an acute impact in several regions of the world, with particular severity and frequency in the coastal countries of the Pacific Ocean,

Noting that El Niño has a recurring character and has produced disastrous effects, resulting in large material, economic, human and environmental losses, with particular impact in the coastal countries of the Pacific Ocean, especially in developing countries,

Acknowledging with concern the possible effects that El Niño may have on global weather patterns, such as abnormal droughts and precipitation around the world, leading to food shortages and famine in several regions which could extend over a number of years and which may have potential impacts on world food supplies,

Taking into account that the major El Niño events of this century have occurred fairly regularly and are often preceded by a number of distinct warning signs, which, with an appropriate increase in and exchange of data and information, could assist in the modelling and prediction of its recurrence and enhance the capabilities of affected countries to mitigate the negative social, economic and environmental impacts that the phenomenon causes,

Acknowledging the need to enhance international and national efforts for a better scientific understanding of the origins of the El Niño phenomenon,

Considering also that the national efforts of the countries affected have been insufficient owing to the magnitude of the natural disaster and that international cooperation and solidarity therefore become indispensable, in particular in the area of capacity-building,

Reaffirming that disaster reduction forms an integral part of the sustainable development strategies and national development plans of vulnerable countries and communities,

1. Invites States to incorporate in sustainable development programmes, at the national, regional and international levels, strategies to prevent, mitigate and rehabilitate the damage caused by natural disasters;

2. Calls upon States, relevant intergovernmental bodies and all others involved in the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction to participate actively in the financial and technical support for Decade activities, including those related to international cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon, in order to ensure the implementation of the International Framework of Action for the Decade,[1] in particular with a view to translating the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and its Plan of Action[2] into concrete disaster reduction programmes and activities;

3. Commends the national, regional and subregional efforts of affected countries, particularly those of developing countries, that have taken measures in order to reduce the impact of El Niño;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to facilitate, within the framework of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, an internationally concerted and comprehensive strategy towards the integration of the prevention, mitigation and rehabilitation of the damages caused by the El Niño phenomenon, including the development of long-term strategies which take into due consideration the need for technical cooperation, financial assistance, the transfer of appropriate technology and the dissemination of existing scientific knowledge, as part of the Decade's activities, the International Framework of Action for the Decade, the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and its Plan of Action,

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[1] See resolution 44/236, annex.

[2] See A/CONF.172/9, chap. I.

and taking into account the relevant parts of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;[3]

5. Calls upon the secretariat of the Decade to continue to facilitate a concerted international approach to improvements in early warning capacities for natural disasters and similar disasters with adverse impact on the environment, with particular reference to El Niño;[4]

6. Welcomes the establishment of the Inter-agency Task Force on El Niño for cooperative work on the prevention and mitigation of and preparedness for natural disasters related to the El Niño phenomenon;

7. Calls upon the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, especially the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Meteorological Organization, the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme, as well as the International Council of Scientific Unions and the World Climate Research Programme, within the framework of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, to contribute further to a comprehensive approach and study of El Niño and to intensify their cooperation with the regions affected by the phenomenon, especially with developing countries, small island developing States and landlocked countries;

8. Invites States to support the oceanographic and terrestrial observation networks to observe, describe and predict climate anomalies related to El Niño;

9. Invites States, intergovernmental organizations and all those participating in the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction to provide technical and financial assistance, including national capacity-building, to developing countries to support global and regional observation systems and research, including the dissemination of data on El Niño, to prevent, mitigate and redress the negative effects of the phenomenon;

10. Requests the Secretary-General, within the context of paragraph 3 of the present resolution and within available resources of the secretariat of the Decade, to promote an intergovernmental meeting of experts, including representatives of academic and scientific institutions devoted to the study and analysis of El Niño, in order to facilitate the exchange of information and national experiences related to the monitoring of the phenomenon as well as of strategies for the reduction of its impact and to provide to the meeting the reports of regional meetings and symposia specializing in the phenomenon;

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[3] Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[4] See resolutions 51/185, 49/22 B and 50/117 B.

11. Urges the Secretary-General to include the El Niño phenomenon and its consequences in the ongoing activities of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction to improve the effectiveness and increase international coordination of early-warning systems with regard to natural and similar disasters with an adverse impact on the environment;

12. Recommends that long-term public awareness and information programmes related to natural disasters, including those induced by El Niño and similar disasters with an adverse impact on the environment, be integrated into comprehensive national disaster management programmes that focus on preventive strategies for risk reduction and that those programmes be included as integral elements of United Nations support for social and economic development programmes;

13. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, within the discussion on the implementation of the Decade, under the agenda item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", and including proposals on how to integrate the prevention, mitigation and rehabilitation of the impacts of the El Niño phenomenon into the development of the disaster reduction strategy for the twenty-first century.

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FOR THE 1990s

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Hans-Peter Glanzer (Austria), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.12

Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 45/206 of 21 December 1990 in which it endorsed the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s[1] and its resolution 48/171 of 21 December 1993, in which it decided to convene a high-level intergovernmental meeting to conduct a mid-term global review,

Recalling also its resolution 50/103 of 20 December 1995, in which it recalled that at the end of the decade, a global review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action would be carried out, in accordance with paragraph 140 of the Programme of Action and paragraph 7 (c) of its resolution 45/206,

Taking note of The Least Developed Countries: Report, 1997, prepared by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,[2] and of the report of

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[1] See A/CONF.147/Misc.9.

[2] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.II.D.6.

the Secretary-General on implementation of the Programme of Action,[1] which highlights the main developmental difficulties the least developed countries continue to face,

Also taking note, with appreciation, of the significant policy reform efforts undertaken by the least developed countries, which in many cases have been wide ranging and difficult to implement; that these efforts should be pursued further; and that structural adjustment poses real challenges and resource issues for these countries; and in this context, encourages the international community to support these further reform efforts by the least developed countries including helping to minimize any social cost of adjustments,

Noting with concern the reduced flow of development resources to the least developed countries, the resulting need to accord them priority in the allocation of concessional resources and their continued marginalization in world trade, as well as the facts that many least developed countries face serious debt problems and more than half are considered debt-distressed,

Taking note of the outcome of the Trade and Development Board at its forty-fourth session on the item relating to the annual review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action, including its agreed conclusions and its recommendation to the General Assembly to consider at its fifty-second session the convening of a third United Nations conference on the least developed countries, its preparatory process, and the designation of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as the focal point for the preparation of the Conference,

1. Decides:

(a) To convene the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries at a high level in the year 2001. The mandate of the Conference will be the following:

(i) To assess the results of the Programme of Action during the 1990s at the country level;

(ii) To review implementation of international support measures, particularly in the areas of official development assistance, debt, investment and trade;

(iii) To consider the formulation and adoption of appropriate national and international policies and measures for sustainable development of the least developed countries and their progressive integration into the world economy;

(b) To convene an intergovernmental preparatory committee in due time to prepare for the Conference. That meeting would be preceded by three expert-

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[1] A/52/279.

level preparatory meetings, two in Africa, one of which would include the Americas, and one in Asia and the Pacific. These preparatory activities should be carried out within the budget level proposed by the Secretary-General for the biennium 1998-1999;

2. Decides also that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development will be the focal point for the preparation of the Conference;

3. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to include in future issues of the annual report on the least developed countries substantive contributions to the Conference and its preparatory process;

4. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session an item entitled "Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s" and to consider, inter alia, the date, duration and venue of the Conference, its preparatory process and the funding for participation of representatives from each least developed country, both at the preparatory committee meeting and at the Conference itself, from extrabudgetary resources;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-third session a report on issues relevant to this item.

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A

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MACROECONOMIC POLICY QUESTIONS: TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Adel Abdellatif (Egypt) on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.26

Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the provisions of its resolutions 44/214 of 22 December 1989, 46/212 of 20 December 1991, 48/169 of 21 December 1993 and 50/97 of 20 December 1995 as well as the relevant parts of the Agenda for Development,[1]

Recognizing that the lack of territorial access to the sea, aggravated by remoteness and isolation from world markets, and prohibitive transit costs and risks impose serious constraints on the overall socio-economic development efforts of the landlocked developing countries,

Recognizing also that sixteen of the landlocked developing countries are also classified by the United Nations as least developed countries, and that their geographical situation is an added constraint on their overall ability to cope with the challenges of development,

Recognizing further that most transit countries are themselves developing countries facing serious economic problems, including the lack of adequate infrastructure in the transport sector,

[1] Resolution 51/240, annex.

Recalling that measures to deal with the transit problems of landlocked developing countries require closer and even more effective cooperation and collaboration between those countries and their transit neighbours,

Noting the importance of strengthening and in this respect recognizing the important role played by bilateral cooperative arrangements and subregional cooperation and integration as well as the activities of the regional commissions in alleviating the transit problems of the landlocked developing countries and improving the transit transport systems in landlocked and transit developing countries,

Noting also the importance of strengthening the existing international support measures with a view to addressing further the problems of landlocked developing countries,

Noting further the holding of the Third Meeting of Governmental Experts from Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Representatives of Donor Countries and Financial and Development Institutions, in New York from 18 to 20 June 1997,

Welcoming the First Subregional Consultative Meeting of countries of North-East Asia on transit transport cooperation held at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from 20 to 22 May 1997 under the auspices of the United Nations Development Programme Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,

1. Welcomes the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the progress report of the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries;[2]

2. Reaffirms the right of access of landlocked countries to and from the sea and freedom of transit through the territory of transit States by all means of transport, in accordance with international law;

3. Also reaffirms that transit developing countries, in the exercise of their full sovereignty over their territory, have the right to take all measures necessary to ensure that the rights and facilities provided for landlocked developing countries should in no way infringe upon their legitimate interests;

4. Calls upon both the landlocked developing countries and their transit neighbours, including bilateral cooperation, to implement measures to strengthen further their cooperative and collaborative efforts in dealing with transit issues, inter alia, by improving the transit transport infrastructure facilities and bilateral and subregional agreements to govern transit transport operations, developing joint ventures in the area of transit transport, and strengthening institutions and human resources dealing with transit transport, and, in this respect, notes that South-South cooperation also plays an important role in this field;

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[2] A/52/329, annex.

5. Appeals once again to all States, international organizations and financial institutions to implement, as a matter of urgency and priority, the specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries agreed in the resolutions and declarations adopted by the General Assembly and the outcomes of recent major United Nations conferences relevant to landlocked developing countries, as well as in the Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation between Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and the Donor Community;[3]

6. Takes note of the agreed conclusions and recommendations and proposals for future actions adopted at the Third Meeting of Governmental Experts from Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Representatives of Donor Countries and Financial and Development Institutions;

7. Welcomes the Ulaanbaatar memorandum of understanding adopted at the First Subregional Consultative Meeting of countries of North-East Asia on transit transport cooperation;

8. Also welcomes the continuing efforts being made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in collaboration with donor countries and institutions, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, the regional commissions and relevant subregional institutions, to organize specific consultative groups, as appropriate, when requested by the landlocked and transit developing countries concerned, to identify priority areas for action at the national and subregional levels and draw up action programmes;

9. Emphasizes that assistance for the improvement of transit transport facilities and services should be integrated into the overall economic development strategies of the landlocked and transit developing countries, and that donor assistance should consequently take into account the requirements for the long-term restructuring of the economies of the landlocked developing countries;

10. Invites donor countries, the United Nations Development Programme and multilateral financial institutions to provide landlocked and transit developing countries with appropriate financial and technical assistance in the form of grants or concessional loans for the construction, maintenance and improvement of their transport, storage and other transit-related facilities, including alternative routes and improved communications, and to promote subregional, regional and interregional projects and programmes;

11. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to convene in 1999 within the overall level of resources for the biennium 1998-1999, another meeting of governmental experts from landlocked and transit developing countries, and representatives of donor countries and financial and development institutions, including relevant regional and subregional economic organizations and commissions, to review progress in the development of transit systems,

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[3] TD/B/42(1)/11-TD/B/LDC/AC.1/7, annex I.

including sectoral aspects, as well as transit transportation costs, with a view to exploring the possibility of formulating necessary action-oriented measures;

12. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to seek voluntary contributions to ensure the participation of representatives of landlocked and transit developing countries and representatives of donor countries, and financial and development institutions at the meeting referred to in operative paragraph 11 above;

13. Notes with appreciation the contribution of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to formulating international measures to deal with the special problems of the landlocked developing countries, and urges the Conference, inter alia, to keep under constant review the evolution of transit transport infrastructure facilities, institutions and services, monitor the implementation of agreed measures, including by making a case study as necessary, collaborate in all relevant initiatives, including those of the private sector and non-governmental organizations, and serve as a focal point on cross-regional issues of landlocked developing countries;

14. Invites the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in consultation with the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to take appropriate measures for the effective implementation of the activities called for in the present resolution, and to staff and equip adequately in accordance with the outcome of the ninth session of the Conference, the Conference Office of the Special Coordinator for Least Developed, Landlocked and Island Developing Countries so as to allow it to implement effectively its mandate to continue to support the landlocked developing countries;

15. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations, together with the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to prepare a report on the implementation of the present resolution and submit it to the Trade and Development Board and to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

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SECTORAL POLICY QUESTIONS: INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Adel Abdellatif (Egypt), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.16

Industrial development cooperation

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries,[1] the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade,[2] and the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s,[3]

Taking note of the declaration adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 at their twenty-first annual meeting, held in New York on 26 September 1997,[4] the communiqué of the Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries to the fifty-second session of the General Assembly, issued on 25 September 1997,[5] and the Declaration on African Industrialization, adopted by the Assembly of Heads

[1] Resolution S-18/3, annex.

[2] Resolution 45/199, annex.

[3] Resolution 46/151, annex, sect. II.

[4] A/52/460.

[5] A/52/447-S/1997/775, annex.

of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at their thirty-third ordinary session, held at Harare in June 1997, on the importance of industrial development for developing countries, especially those in Africa, and the essential role of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in this regard,

Reaffirming its resolution 50/94 of 20 December 1995 on the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa, in which it requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the resolution, and resolution 51/170 of 16 December 1996,

Recognizing the importance of industrialization as a key element in promoting [sustained economic growth and sustainable development] in Africa, as well as its role in facilitating efforts for the eradication of poverty, the integration of women in the development process and the creation of productive employment,

Recognizing the increasing role of the business community, including the private sector, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises, in enhancing the dynamic process of the development of the industrial sector,

Taking note of the Plan of Action for the Alliance for Africa's Industrialization, adopted by the Conference of African Ministers of Industry at its thirteenth meeting, held at Accra in May 1997,

Emphasizing the continuing need for the mobilization of adequate resources through domestic and international initiatives for the implementation of the programme for the Second Decade, including a favourable climate for foreign direct investment, private sector development, small and medium-sized enterprises and enhanced market access, and recognizing the need for African countries to use both human and financial resources more effectively in the process of industrialization,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (1993-2002);[6]

2. Calls on all Member States to support the implementation of the programme for the Industrial Development Decade for Africa and the Plan of Action for the Alliance for Africa's Industrialization, taking into account the results of the mid-term review of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa;

3. Invites donor countries, United Nations funds and programmes, all relevant United Nations organizations and the private sector to participate in a meeting of donors to be organized by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Development Programme and the Organization of African Unity under the leadership of the African Development Bank and in cooperation with the World Bank;

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[6] A/52/480.

4. Appeals to the international community and the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the Economic Commission for Africa, in accordance with their mandates, work programmes and priorities, to support the programmes of the African countries to intensify and expand industrial cooperation among themselves;

5. Urges African Member States to integrate the objectives of the Alliance for Africa's Industrialization into their national plans and the establishment of institutional capacity for the formulation of mechanisms to follow up and monitor programmes and projects, including, where appropriate, the involvement of the private sector;

6. Requests the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the Economic Commission for Africa and other relevant United Nations organizations, in accordance with their agreed mandates, work programmes and priorities, to work closely with Governments and the private sector in Africa at the national, regional and international levels to foster industrial production and development;

7. Calls on the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the Economic Commission for Africa, in accordance with their agreed mandates, work programmes and priorities, to strengthen their coordination with the United Nations Development Programme and other United Nations agencies and donors with a view to accelerating the implementation and goals of the Industrial Decade for Development of Africa;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.